



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **108th** CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

No. 106

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Solomon Schiff of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami, FL.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Creator, bestow Thy blessings upon those assembled here who have accepted the sacred responsibility to legislate within these hallowed halls of the United States Senate to preserve and to foster the noble ideals of our sanctified democracy.

Grant that these deliberations will be ruled by wisdom, purpose, and dedication. Thou, O Lord, have taught us through the words of the prophet Malachai: "Have we not all one Father? Hath not one G-d created us all? Why do we deal treacherously, every man against his brother?" Grant us the resolve to serve as Thy partners to eradicate anger, hunger, and bigotry from our human family. Imbue us with commitment to sow the seeds that will turn selfishness into civility, hatred into harmony, loathing into love, and bigotry into blessing. Help us always to work for the lost, the least, the last, and the lonely. May we remain committed to work with renewed energy to elevate the status and dignity of all of Thy children so that all can enjoy the blessings and benefits of our bountiful society. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning following my remarks, which will be brief, and any comments from the Democratic leader, we will have a 60-minute period for morning business, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority, and the last 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic side.

At the conclusion of morning business, we will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. Last night, we were able to reach an agreement which limits amendments to the bill, and although the list is much longer than we would like, I am hopeful many of the listed amendments will not be offered. As we continue discussion among ourselves and between both sides of the aisle, hopefully many of those amendments can be either addressed in another way or will not be offered at this point in time.

It is imperative for us in this body to stay focused on the safety and security of the American people, and this bill demonstrates that. We have worked very well together thus far.

I want to share with my colleagues the importance of staying focused on this bill. Let's move on with the amendments—we are on the amendments—and debate them in an expeditious way so we can finish this bill.

I previously stated we should finish the bill this week. Given the list of amendments which have appeared, we will, in all likelihood, go over into next

week. We absolutely must have as our goal and make it reality of finishing the bill in the early part of next week or prior to the Rosh Hashanah holiday. I know Members' schedules are fluid, especially at this time of year when people have so many demands back in their home States, as well as here. The schedules are challenging, but I ask everybody to work with the Democratic leader and myself in terms of the scheduling so we can have real movement on these bills and bring them to completion in as expeditious a way as possible.

On Fridays and Mondays, we will be in discussion to let people know exactly what the voting schedules will be. In large part, it depends on how much participation we get during the course of the day today and tonight and a day like yesterday. If everybody can help us, I think we will be able to complete this bill in an expeditious way with respect to everybody's schedules.

We will have a full day today and this evening. I would suspect, as we continue to make progress on the bill.

REFORM OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I very briefly want to speak to a meeting that the leadership, not just elected leadership but leadership and interested parties, both Democrats and Republicans, had yesterday with the President of the United States, with the Senate and House represented. It was a very good meeting.

The focus of that meeting was to discuss the President's views, his plans to reform the intelligence community. The focus of this body for a long time, but very specifically since the 9/11 Commission report recommendations were made, has been on the safety and security of the American people as it is reflected in the 9/11 Commission report and our study of that report.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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